

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney is appreciative of the interview granted by Examiners Rodriguez and Eide on June 4, 2009. At that interview, agreement was reached that the references of record, taken in combination, did not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Objection has been raised to Claim 14, and the correction requested has now been made.

Claims 16 and 26, have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, on the basis that the term "the casting" did not have antecedent basis. In order to provide antecedent basis for this term, the dependency of Claim 15 has been changed to Claim 14, and the dependency of Claim 26 has been changed to Claim 17.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 13-26 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Guiot et al in view of Burger.

As discussed at the interview, the Guiot et al reference discloses a method for determining the shape of a duplicate of a remaining tooth area to be provided with a prosthesis, in which shape of the duplicate is determined, as is the shape of the duplicate sections into which the duplicate has been divided, and the determined data are stored and combined. This process is cited as prior art in the present specification (EP 913,130), and the invention improves on this process by placing each of the duplicate sections separately into a holding device, determining the geometry of each section by scanning, and referencing the duplicate sections to each other in a referencing stored in a computer, and which is independent of the duplicate.

The Burger reference does not suggest any such process. According to Burger, a model of a jaw is fabricated by

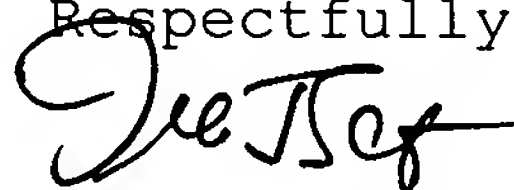
attaching a tooth arrangement to a support, cutting out individual sections of the attached arrangement, and reconstructing the entire model in a base plate. While similar physical manipulation steps may be performed according to the invention (and Guiot et al), there is no disclosure or suggestion in Burger of scanning these models into a computer.

Moreover, there is no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would seek to improve on the Guiot et al method by utilizing the teaching of Burger, which issued a full 13 years before Guiot et al, and which does not relate to scanning to determine geometry, or storage of models in a computer.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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